



Pioneer Valley Studies NEWSLETTER

Towards Defining our Sense of Place...

Vol. II

June 1983

No. 3

A VALLEY ANECDOTE

By Richard Garvey

I would like to talk about some experiences I've had as an amateur historian researching local history because some of it touches on artifacts and are, I believe, enjoyable experiences somewhat similar to ones you've had.

Let me start by stating that you know a speaker is supposed to say, "It's great to be in Haydenville tonight," but actually I wrote a book about Haydenville. I'm not sure anybody ever did that before, but I wrote a book about that little Catholic church which, if the bay went out a little bit farther, you could see it up there. It's only maybe 300 feet north of where we're meeting here. It was a church started at the end of the Civil War by Joel Hayden, who was not a Catholic but who gave the land for the church because he thought there ought to be a Catholic church as he had a lot of Catholics working in his brass shop, and he simply wanted a church for them. He'd been lieutenant governor of Massachusetts during the Civil War and had become friendly with a young Catholic vicar-general of the dioceses in Boston, who later became the bishop of Boston. So, nothing would happen but that Joel Hayden would have a Catholic church in his little town.

The Bishop of Boston authorized that church, and it was built at the end of the Civil War. However, it was thirty years before it could have a pastor. First it was part of the Northampton parish and had a missionary priest up here. Then later it became part of the Florence and Leeds parishes. It was the only church in the parish, although the center of the parish was down in Florence because there just weren't enough people up here to support it.

One of its unusual characteristics as a Catholic church was that all its pulpit books, pulpit announcements, and weekly announcements from 1896 to 1926 are still in existence. Every single week was in there in the books. They just saved the pulpit announcements.

Along about 1910, each week in these records there began to appear a strange new language, along with the English. It seemed to me it should fit that this language would be Polish because that's when the Polish people were first coming into this area. I don't comprehend Polish at all, so I brought the material to Ed Sanarski with whom I work and who is an expert in the language. He does translations of scholarly

(Continued p. 2)

material into Polish and from Polish into English for various journals. So I brought this material into him and said I needed to know what the priest was saying to these people in Haydenville in 1910 and asked if he would translate this Polish for me.

Ed Sanarski looked at the books and he said "Well, I don't know what this is. It's not a language I'm familiar with. I can tell you it's not Polish, but what it is I have no idea." I said, "Ed, it's got to be Polish. That's the only thing that fits in the history of that area. That's when the Polish people began arriving and it's got to be Polish." He remarked, "Well, I can tell you, it's not Polish. What it is I have no idea." All this time he's looking at it. Then he stopped and said, "Wait a minute." He handed the book to me and said, "You read that in English. I think I see what he's doing." So I read it in English and he translated the Polish. It was phonetically written. Imagine. The priest wanted to make sure that his Polish parishoners heard it in Polish so he had someone say it aloud in Polish and then he would write down what he heard.

I then interviewed a family up in Goshen. The woman told me that her mother and father were married by that priest in 1911, and he did the whole marriage ceremony in Polish. He learned it all by rote sound. Then the next Christmas, 1911, he did a Polish Christmas in that church with all the music. There were only a few people who could speak Polish and they trained the choir people in the parts of the Mass. They did the whole Christmas in Polish here in 1911 and there were probably only maybe a couple of dozen people who could understand the Polish.

When I first saw the records in the chancery office in Springfield, I learned that when they got ready to build St. John Cantius Polish Church in Northampton, even though people all around here had been supportive of it over a period of years, all of a sudden these people were removed from it after they had been contributing to it. I thought, that was an insensitive thing to do, but then I found out that it was at their request. They so liked that man who worked so hard to speak Polish that they decided that they would rather go to him than go to the new Polish church. So they asked the dioceses to be eliminated from the central Hampshire Polish parish.

(more...)

PIONEER VALLEY STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Program Notes and News from:

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Ellie Stebbins

By the way, I thought that was kind of a nice humankind story, so I asked the woman I was interviewing, "I know that priest was a linguist because he used to lecture formally in French, but did he really get to be good at it?" She said, "No, my mother said he was terrible. It was just awful. The only good thing about it was that it made the parishoners pray because all of the Polish people would start praying that he'd finish. He was such a painful thing to listen to."

(Ed. note - Mr. Garvey is the editor of the Springfield Daily News and familiar to residents throughout the valley as a very popular speaker on an infinite variety of topics related to local history. The above remarks are excerpted from Mr. Garvey's address to a meeting of the Pioneer Valley Antiques Dealers Association and printed here with his permission.)

Don't Forget ... !

Sunday, June 26, 1983 at 4:30 p.m.

PIONEER VALLEY SYMPHONY

POPS CONCERT

On the Greenfield Community College Campus
to benefit G.C.C. scholarship students.

Tickets available at G.C.C. president's
office or the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield.

\$10/car or \$3/adults and \$1/under 14 years old

Rain site: Greenfield High School Auditorium

-Join us for a very special summer's eve-

THE AFRO-AMERICAN HERITAGE OF THE PIONEER VALLEY - D.H. Benander.

On Friday, June 3, 1983, Jeannette G. Harris-Davis presented a seminar on Black History to the summer meeting of the Pioneer Valley Studies faculty and advisory committee at Greenfield Community College.

In her two and a half hour presentation she provided participants with an overview of the history of Afro-Americans in the western part of this state. She stressed the interconnections between events that affected blacks in the Valley with what was happening both in the state as a whole and nationally. Springfield as an example of the urban-rural continuum was discussed in detail. The participants responded with questions and discussion of her ideas.

Ms. Harris-Davis speaks out of a wide and varied background of educational and professional experience. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Science degree before leaving for Bolahun, Liberia in Africa where she served as a medical missionary. On her return in 1955 she worked as a chemist for the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In 1958 she worked for the Lahey Clinic in Boston and at Northeastern University until 1965. She then entered the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts where she completed her masters and doctoral degrees in International Education.

She has written articles on the black experience in the valley for the Springfield Bicentennial Committee and Springfield Magazine. She has presented numerous papers and participated in panel discussions at many schools and service organizations of the Western Massachusetts area. Ms. Harris-Davis is presently serving as Educational Generalist for the Massachusetts Department of Education in Springfield.

N O T I C E

VALLEY ARTISTS JURIED EXHIBITION

Greenfield Community College

November 17 - December 9

1983

Watch for public announcements
in early September. For more
information this summer contact
Pamela Sacher, Art Department,
G.C.C. Phone: 774-3131, x 303.

NOTES FROM THE P.V. RESOURCE CENTER - by Carol G. Letson, P.V.S. Librarian

In most cases students and scholars who are interested in current issues in the Valley must do a lot of their own "footwork" while doing original research. In some areas of study, local magazines and newspapers are a valuable resource. Local issues, ranging from the future of county government to the proper use of dwindling land resources, are reported in brief or in depth, depending on the source. The following is a sampling of periodicals and newspapers useful to Valley research:

The Country Side, a bimonthly magazine, printed in Northampton, covering Valley architecture, history, business, crafts, a calendar of local events, etc.

MASSPIRG Report: the newsletter of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, a quarterly. Headquarters are in Boston. This student-directed organization conducts research, education and advocacy in the public interest.

River Valley Voice: progressive news for Vermont, New Hampshire and Western Massachusetts. Produced by volunteer labor and printed in Northampton. Published irregularly.

Shelburne Falls and West County News, a weekly newspaper published in Shelburne Falls. Covers local news from ten towns in western Franklin County.

Valley Advocate, a weekly newspaper covering local politics, art, book and music reviews, and issues of interest to the Valley cities and towns.

Valley Women's Voice, a Western Massachusetts feminist monthly, published in Northampton. It covers news, analysis, reviews, art, and culture.

The Resource Center's policy for keeping newspapers is to hold back-issues for three months. At that time articles of interest to Valley studies are clipped, labelled and placed in a file arranged by subject headings for future research. The main Library collection encompasses the major area newspapers, such as the Springfield Union, Boston Globe, Greenfield Recorder, etc. The newspapers listed above are to be found in the Resource Center, along with the clipping file.

The Resource Center also collects newsletters from several of the Valley historical societies and associations. In addition, the following periodicals with an area focus are housed in the Center:

Man in the Northeast, a quarterly, deals with archaeological topics. New England Review, primarily the works of northern New England residents. It is edited and published by students at Franklin Pierce College.

Stone Walls, a quarterly, publishes manuscripts and illustrations from the hilltowns of the Berkshires.



VALLEY FACTS

1. Before tobacco became a major crop in Hadley, another crop put the town "on the map" as first in New England in its production. That crop was:
 - a. flax for linen
 - b. broom corn
 - c. Indian corn
 - d. wheat
2. Eli Whitney is known by every school child for his invention of the cotton gin. In what other major industry was he instrumental in developing new techniques?
 - a. ice making and refrigeration systems
 - b. silk industry
 - c. firearms production
3. Eight years after the first electric lights were introduced in Northampton, in 1892,
 - a. the first electric trollies in that town were in operation.
 - b. the Academy of Music first used electric footlights.
 - c. electricity was first used for film projection in Northampton.
4. We all are familiar with the alliterative name of the Stanley Steamer built by Francis E. and Freelan O. Stanley. What local firm (in western Massachusetts) also built a steam-driven automobile?
 - a. Charles E. and J. Frank Duryea of Springfield, Mass.
 - b. the Grout brothers of Orange, Mass.
 - c. Elwood Haynes in 1896.

Answers will be found on page 8.



Pioneer Valley Studies

Fall Courses, 1983

Day Division

...TOWARDS DEFINING OUR SENSE OF PLACE...

ANT 107 Valley Archaeology. (BC) The prehistory of the Pioneer Valley region. Instructor: TBA, with Greg Vouros MWF 1.

ART 105 Valley/American Art & Architecture I. (HC) Survey of American art and architecture from 1600 to 1850 with correlated examples from the Pioneer Valley. Instructor: Diane Forsberg; TTh 12:30.

ART 201 Valley Photography Documentary Project. (HL) Prerequisite ART 251 or PI. Instructor: Tom Young; TTh 8-10.

ECO 111 Valley Contemporary Economic Issues. (BC) Current concerns which affect the quality of life in the Valley: environmental issues, energy, etc. Instructor: Arthur Shaw; MWF 2.

ENG 125 Interviewing and Transcribing. (HL) Techniques for preparing, recording, and transcribing interviews for oral histories and as media presentations, including auditing, outlining, editing, and indexing. Instructors: Dr. Donald H. Benander, Dr. Bernard Drabek, and Saul Greenblatt; TTh 2.

ENG 253 Valley Writers. (HC) Influences of the Valley on major writers, including Edwards, Bryant, Dickinson, MacLeish, and Wilbur. Instructor: Phyllis Nahman; TTh 9:30.

GEO 103 Valley Geology. (NC) Geohistory, basic concepts, continental drift, glaciation, and resources in the Valley. Instructor: Richard Little; MW 2.

HIS 107 Valley/American History I. (HC) Major political, social, and economic developments in American history with a focus on Valley events from the Pilgrim century to the Civil War. Instructor: Saul Sherter; TTh 8.

HIS 108 Valley/American History II. (HC) A continuation of History 107, from the Civil War to the present. Instructor: John Kazar, with George Bluh; MWF 8.

HUM 113 Introduction to the Pioneer Valley. (HL) Geographical, geological, historical, and cultural overview of the Valley; research techniques. Instructor: Dr. Bernard Drabek; TTh 9:30.

HUM 119 Women in the Valley. (HL) The role of women in shaping the development of the Valley. Instructor: Virginia Low; TTh 11.

UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR THE SUMMER INSTITUTE - D.H. Benander.

Throughout the spring semester the faculty and project director, Dr. Bernard Drabeck, have been meeting to complete the arrangements for the Summer Institute which will be held at GCC from July 5 through July 29th.

The PVS Resource Center will be open for the duration of the Institute so that its research materials will be available to the participants.

Four field trips are planned during the afternoons for the teachers attending the Institute. On Friday, July 8th, Prof. Dick Little will take the students on a tour of geological sites in the Greenfield area. On Friday, July 15th, Prof. Diane Forsberg will conduct a tour of Old Deerfield to acquaint them with the resources in art and architecture there. On Tuesday, July 19th, Prof. Phyllis Nahman will take the group to the Dickinson Homestead in Amherst, and on Wednesday, July 27th, Dr. John Kazar will lead a visit to the Dwight L. Moody museum at the Northfield-Mount Hermon School.

In addition, there will be special presentations by a number of GCC faculty members and prominent local personalities. Richard Garvey, editor of the Springfield Daily News, will talk about the effective use of newspaper archives for research by students of local history. Prof. George Bluh will speak on the ethnic history of the Pioneer Valley, and Dr. Arthur Shaw will address the topic of the economic history of the region.

Arrangements are in progress with the staffs of the Amherst Local History Project and Old Sturbridge Village to give a presentation about their respective techniques of developing curriculum and classroom activities on local and regional history.

Plans are also underway to include a workshop with the principals of the secondary schools represented at the Institute.



ANSWERS:

1. b. In 1845 the number of brooms manufactured was 599,369 from 503,859 lbs. of broom brush. Source: Holland's History of Western Massachusetts. v. 2 p. 228.
2. c. Firearms production could follow the uniformity system of production and so arms were made with interchangeable parts. Whitney's shop was in New Haven, Conn. (Encyclopedia Americana)
3. a. Source: Pioneer Valley Chronology prepared by Arthur Shaw.
4. b. A 1904 model is now on display in the G.C.C. Library. (The Duryea brothers of Springfield built the first successful American gasoline powered automobile in 1893.)
Source: Encyclopedia Americana

SOME SPECIAL SUMMER EVENTS IN THE VALLEY

* At Historic Deerfield:

- July 1-4 Premier of new play, "A Question of Place," about C. Alice Baker of 19th century Deerfield.
Brick Church, 8:15 p.m.
- July 2 Concert, "The Early American Singing Society of Deerfield,"
Brick Church, 11 a.m.
Musical and March, "The Hampshire Rebels Ancient Fife and Drum Corps,"
Streets of Historic Deerfield, 2-4 p.m.
- July 4 Concert of historical ballads, "Songs Under the Liberty Tree,"
by Arthur Schrader,
Brick Church, 1:30-3 p.m.
- July 5 Conference, "Contemporary and Early American Holidays."
- July 27 Connecticut River boat trip aboard the Quinnetukut II and
box supper prepared by the Deerfield Inn. 7 p.m.

Contact Historic Deerfield for more information about the above programs.

* "On the Farm" Workshops sponsored by the Hilltown Community Development Corporation, Chesterfield, Ma.:

- July 23 - Vegetable Gardens and Strawberry Patches
July 23 - Forest Management for Summer People
Aug. 20 - Herbs and Perennials

For further details contact the H.C.D.C. at 584-4050 or 296-4363.

* Fairs!

- Aug. 5-7 Littleville Fair, Kinnebrook Rd., Chester.
Aug. 12-14 Highland Agricultural Society Fair, Bell Rd., Middlefield.
Aug. 13 Goshen Flower Show, Main St., Goshen.
Aug. 19-21 Westfield Fair, Russellville Rd., Westfield.
Aug. 26-27 Ware Grange Fair, Belchertown Rd., Ware.
Aug. 26-28 Hillside Agricultural Society Fair, Fairgrounds Rd., Cummington.
Aug. 27 Shelburne Grange Fair, Little Mohawk Rd., Shelburne.

The above fairs feature a variety of activities including fireworks, agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, arts and crafts displays, ox and horse draws, and some of the Valley's best music and food!





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Towards Defining Our Sense of Place...

Valley Studies Courses · Research · MacLeish Collection · Resource Center

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Alan Newman
David Proper
Chaloner Spencer

*...The Valley...the bed of the
prehistoric lake where the Deerfield
River comes down to the Connecticut
in Massachusetts, opening the
northwest gateway to the wilderness
beyond. It was by this gateway that
the Commonwealth was settled
through its highest hills and with
its oldest hopes and here too, in
later years, that the Old New
England journey was begun
again.*

Archibald MacLeish

P.V.S. Committee

Dr. Donald Benander
Dr. Larry Buell
Dr. Bernard Drabeck, Chm.
Dr. Helen Ellis
Shirley Evans
Margaret Howland
Donna Kenny
Carol Letson
Patricia Leuchtman
Richard Little
Robert Merriam
Joan Rising
Dr. Arthur Shaw
Saul Sherter
Wendy Sibbison
Dr. Herbert Steeper

Pioneer Valley Studies is a new curriculum at Greenfield Community College which focuses on the history, traditions and culture of the Connecticut River Valley in Western Massachusetts.